

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
February 17, 2009
7:00 P.M.**

MAYOR JEFFREY E. GRAHAM PRESIDING

PRESENT: **COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS
COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH
MAYOR GRAHAM**

ABSENT: **COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR.
COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH**

ALSO PRESENT: **CITY MANAGER MARY M. CORRIVEAU
CITY ATTORNEY ROBERT J. SLYE**

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- 1 - Approving the “Planning Strategies to Revitalize Community Centers” Workshop for February 25, 2009 As Valid Training for Meeting the New York State Municipal Planning and Zoning Officials Training Requirement
- 2 - Approving the City of Watertown Procurement Policy
- 3 - Approving the Zone Change Request Submitted by Anthony Felder of Indian River Lakes Engineering, PLLC, on behalf of Augustine Romeo, Watertown, New York to Change the Approved Zoning Classification Of 138-139 Glenn Ave., 140 Glenn Ave, M 157 Carlton Ave., and M 158 Carlton Ave, Parcels No. 8-18-315, 8-18-317, 8-18-308 and 8-18-309, from Residence C to Neighborhood Business
- 4- Community Development Block Grant Program Application
- 5- RESTORE NY Grant Application
- 6 - Executive Session To discuss the sale of real property, whereby public disclosure would affect the value thereof.

COMPLETE REPORTS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 2, 2009 was dispensed with and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Clough, seconded by Council Member Burns and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

C O M M U N I C A T I O N S

From the City Planning Board recommending Council grant approval for the Zone Change request submitted on behalf of Augustine Romeo to change the approved zoning classification

for properties located at 138-139 Glenn Ave., 140 Glenn Ave., M 157 and M 158 Carlton Ave., Parcels No 8-18-315,8-18-317,8-18-308 and 8-18-309 from a Residential C Zoning District to a Neighborhood Business Zoning District.

ABOVE PLACED ON FILE

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Wayne Zimmer, Katherine Street, addressed the chair concerning the posts in front of Avon Shoes and the Crystal Restaurant and the fact that there is no parking in that area. He stated that senior citizens go to these businesses and there is no place for them to park. He also commented that perhaps the City should have checked with other communities that have used the synthetic asphalt before it was put in.

Jason Trainor, 142 Mechanic Street, addressed the chair concerning the potholes and the need for the City to repair them.

R E S O L U T I O N S

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS

WHEREAS the New York State Chapter 662 of the Laws of 2006, which took effect on January 1, 2007 requires all municipal planning and zoning officials to have four hours of training per year, and

WHEREAS the training must be approved by the City Council before it can be used to meet the new training requirement, and

WHEREAS the Jefferson County Department of Planning, the NYS Tug Hill Commission, and Center for Community Studies at JCC are co-sponsoring a day of several training sessions at the “Planning Strategies to Revitalize Community Centers” for local planning officials on February 25, 2009 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Jefferson Community College,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York that the “Planning Strategies to Revitalize Community Centers” workshop is approved to provide five hours of training toward meeting the New York State Municipal Planning and Zoning Officials training requirement.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH

WHEREAS the New York State Legislature adopted legislation amending General Municipal Law, Section 103 and requiring each political subdivision and district therein, to

identify the individual or individuals responsible for purchasing and their title, within their established Procurement Policy, and

WHEREAS the City's Procurement Policy was adopted in 1992, and it has been a number of years since it has been reviewed and updated, and

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Agent Robert J. Cleaver has reviewed the City's Procurement Policy with City Department Heads and such Policy has been updated to conform with the recent changes in the Law, and to more closely reflect the procurement procedures currently in practice within the City of Watertown,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Procurement Policy for the City of Watertown, a copy of which has been attached and made a part of this resolution.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH

WHEREAS economic stability and sustainability of our local economy is a vital concern to the residents and business of the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown needs a balanced economy consisting of a wide range of various types of businesses, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown is cognizant of the need for additional commercial and industrial businesses to attain such economic stability and sustainability, and

WHEREAS tax revenue generated by businesses throughout the City of Watertown and the State of New York provide much needed relief to individual taxpayers and their families, and

WHEREAS the New York State Empire Zone program has been a proven stimulus in the growth and revitalization of weakened local economies throughout New York State, and

WHEREAS the New York State Empire Zone program has been successful in bringing thousands of new jobs to its sponsoring counties, and

WHEREAS local Zone Administrators, in areas as diverse as the City of Watertown, have a more comprehensive and detailed understanding of the uniqueness of counties such as ours, these local Administrative Boards are in the best position to administer local Zones and should continue to do so, and

WHEREAS the Watertown Empire Zone of the City of Watertown, established in 1994, has a long record of facilitating new job growth with over 5,000 Empire Zone workers, and new capital investments totaling \$52 million in 2007, by providing local technical assistance to Empire Zone Certified Businesses within the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the continued economic development efforts of the Watertown Empire Zone of the City of Watertown will result in attracting new businesses and job for the people of the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the New York State Empire Zone program has shown great promise for the economy of the City of Watertown by piquing the interest of prospective businesses inquiring from both outside the City of Watertown and outside the State of New York while at the same time assisting local companies prepare for growth, and

WHEREAS the New York State Empire zone program has a planned sunset date of June 30, 2011, and

WHEREAS the Governor's proposed budget makes sweeping changes to the Empire Zone program that may lead to litigation, company relocation and loss of credibility to New York's economic development efforts, and

WHEREAS increasing New York's already high cost of doing business by raising business fees and taxes, significantly cutting the state's business development budget and undermining the credibility of our economic development efforts would make New York less competitive,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby requests the State of New York to continue its Empire Zone stimulus program beyond 2011 to June 30, 2017 as well as the Local Administrative Boards, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New York State Legislature in an effort to maintain continuity and to stimulate positive momentum, is encouraged to enact legislation that will make the Empire Zone program less bureaucratic, less complex, more targeted, and less costly, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New York State lawmakers, as they work on the state budget, are encouraged to make every effort to avoid adding more burdens to employers, whether through taxes, fees, wage mandates or regulations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to New York State Governor David A. Paterson, Senate Majority Leader Malcolm A. Smith, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canistrari, Senate Minority Leader Dean Skelos, Assembly Minority Leader James Tedisco, local Senator Darrel Aubertine, local Assemblywoman Addie Jenne Russell, local Assemblywoman Deirdre Scozzafava and Director of the Empire Zone program Randal Coburn.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

RULES WAIVED BY MOTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS

WHEREAS New York State has designated an Empire Zone (formerly Economic Development Zone) pursuant to Article 18-b of the New York State General Municipal Law within the Town of Watertown and the City of Watertown on July 27, 1994, and

WHEREAS Article 18-b of the New York State General Municipal Law requires that an Empire Zone Board (formerly Economic Development Zone Administration Board) be in place to oversee the operation of the Zone,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby appoints to the Empire Zone, as a Financial Institution representative, Mark LaVarnway, 746 Ball Avenue, Watertown, New York, to fill the unexpired term of Tom Cesta, such term commencing immediately and expiring on May 31, 2010.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

RULES WAIVED BY MOTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Clough explained that Mr. Cesta had resigned due to his work schedule which has now taken him out of town more often.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves Amendment No. 69 to the Management and Management Confidential Pay Plan, effective upon the appointment of Elaine Giso to the position of Stenographic Secretary, as follows:

Position	Salary
Stenographic Secretary	\$40,000
Upon completing one year of service in this position, the salary will increase by \$1,000	

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

RULES WAIVED BY MOTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

ORDINANCES

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH

WHEREAS the New York State Legislature adopted legislation amending General Municipal Law, Section 103 and requiring each political subdivision and district therein, to identify the individual or individuals responsible for purchasing and their title, within their established Procurement Policy, and

WHEREAS the City's Procurement Policy was adopted in 1992, and it has been a number of years since it has been reviewed and updated, and

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Agent Robert J. Cleaver has reviewed the City's Procurement Policy with City Department Heads and such Policy has been updated to conform with the recent changes in the Law, and to more closely reflect the procurement procedures currently in practice within the City of Watertown,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Procurement Policy for the City of Watertown, a copy of which has been attached and made a part of this resolution.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE FOR MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009 AT 7:30 P.M.

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

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COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

Update on Downtown Lighting

Council Member Burns asked for an update on this.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that one of the City staff had assisted National Grid in putting in a different photo eye on the island area between HSBC and the YMCA and it seems to be working. There are still problems with the ballasts. The parts have been ordered.

Empire Zone Support

Council Member Clough asked that a letter be sent from the Council or Mayor to Governor Paterson, State Assembly Members Scozzafava and Jenne Russell as well as State Senator Aubertine showing support for the Empire Zone.

Spray Injection Patch Machine

Council Member Clough asked if the City was still planning on renting this machine.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that we haven't moved forward with that. She will be meeting with Mr. Hayes next week to look at the department's budget as well as CHIPS funding.

Parking on North Side of Public Square

Mayor Graham encouraged business owners to come to Council and express any concerns that they might have with the parking in that area.

Council Member Clough asked if outreach should be done through the City Manager's Office.

Mrs. Corriveau commented that Chief Goss has spoken with the owners and she could also call them.

Council Member Burns remarked that we are backtracking. She commented that there have been meetings about these plans for years. She stated that she would like to verify if Mayor Graham and Council Member Clough want to reach out to the businesses and ask them if they like it now.

Mayor Graham responded that he only wanted to know if the hardship is real or imagined.

Council Member Clough advised that no one had contacted him about a problem and he has only heard things second hand.

Mrs. Corriveau commented that Council had asked staff to look at whether or not we could get additional parking in the synthetic asphalt area on the north side of the Square. She remarked that Council needs to understand that the area was designated as a pedestrian zone and to put parking there can be problematic. She explained that they are looking at better signage.

Stimulus Package

Mayor Graham advised that the Governor's Office will be holding a series of meetings on how to apply for this type of funding.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that there is an indication that the funding will come through existing programs, but it is still being worked out.

Public Hearing on Engine Street Property

Mayor Graham referred to the notice of public hearing from NYS DEC. He commented that it struck him that we are in a state and a nation where government tells us how poor we are and yet, they want to spend \$18 million to clean this plot of land where nothing has happened for 50 years and where there will likely be no higher use for it in the future.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that the area goes beyond the property owned by National Grid.

Mayor Graham commented that it will be National Grid's money. However, the residents will pay for it through rate increases.

2009 CDBG Small Cities Application

Mr. Mix addressed the chair explaining that with the amount of interest shown, there is enough need to warrant another application for funds to continue the downtown rental apartments program that was applied for and received last year.

Council Member Clough questioned continuing to put lower income housing in the downtown.

Mr. Mix explained that this is a legitimate concern. However, the only program that is available is for low to moderate income. He explained that this income level is only for the regulatory period. This expires in 10 years and then the landlord can rent at whatever the market will bear.

Council Member Clough asked if these funds could be used to help the elderly and low income throughout the City.

Mr. Mix explained that they could be as the programs are not only for downtown. Staff is continuously looking for more funds in an effort to shift the different programs around.

Council Member Burns remarked that while Council Member Clough raises a good point, downtown owners' biggest challenge is the rehab of their second and third floors. She stated that she supports the downtown proposal.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that they just want to make sure that there is Council consensus.

Mayor Graham also agreed with the proposal.

Restore New York – Third Round

Mr. Mix explained that the City may only submit one application for a maximum of \$2.5 million. He also explained that renovating the Woolworth Building as a hotel has been discussed as a

potential candidate for this funding source. Mr. Mix remarked that at the last Advantage Watertown meeting, alternative projects were discussed. Those projects were: 431, Washington St., 514 Washington Street, Goodale Street Parking Lot, Ogilvie Site and a Downtown Multi Building Project.

Council discussed the various proposals.

Council Member Burns asked who owned 431 Washington St. and asked if the property owner had been approached.

Mrs. Corriveau advised that Attorney Munson owns that property. She also advised that these were discussed publically at the Advantage Watertown meeting and the individuals were informed that they would be discussed publically this evening.

Mayor Graham commented that either Washington Street buildings would be a good project, if not the Woolworth Building.

Council Member Clough remarked that the Woolworth Building would be the logical one.

Council concurred.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY, WHEREBY PUBLIC DISCLOSURE WOULD AFFECT THE VALUE THEREOF AND THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR CITY EMPLOYEE.

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

Council moved into Executive Session at 7:39 p.m.

Council reconvened at 7:54 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR MEETING WAS DULY ADJOURNED AT 7:55 P.M. BY MOTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

Denna M. Dutton
City Clerk

